Amendments

Please amend claim 14 as indicated in the detailed listing of claims which is shown below. Claims 9 and 17-20 have been canceled in a previous amendment.

Claim 1 (previously presented): An apparatus for electrically connecting two objects together, comprising:

a first object which has a first connective surface defined thereon;

a row of first electrical contacts supported on the first connective surface;

a second object which has a second connective surface defined thereon;

a row of second electrical contacts supported on the second connective surface and configured to contact the first electrical contacts; and,

a guide that allows the first and second objects to be placed adjacent to one another in facilitation of electrical connection therebetween by substantially constraining movement of the first object relative to the second object to a given direction and along a continuous path of movement which is substantially parallel to the row of first electrical contacts.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the path of movement is substantially straight.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first and second connective surfaces are substantially flat.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first and second objects are further configured to be subsequently moved away from each other by movement of the first object relative to the second object along the path of movement in the given direction.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the guide comprises:

an open-ended trough defined on the first connective surface; and,

a ridge which is defined on the second connective surface and which is configured to matingly engage the trough when the first and second objects are placed adjacent to one another in facilitation of electrical connection therebetween.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an alignment member which is movably supported on the second object and which is configured to engage the first object when moved so as to substantially align the first electrical contacts with the second electrical contacts in order to facilitate electrical connection therebetween.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first and second connective surfaces are substantially parallel and in juxtaposed relation when the first and second objects are electrically connected.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first electrical contacts are resiliently flexible, and are configured to be deflected when the first and second objects are electrically connected.

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 5, and wherein the first and second objects are configured such that the ridge and the trough can be disengaged by movement of the first object relative to the second object along the path of movement in the given direction.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 5, and wherein the ridge and the trough are substantially parallel to the path of movement.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an alignment member which is movably supported on the second object, and wherein:

a first cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to substantially align the first electrical contacts with the second electrical contacts in a lateral direction that is substantially normal to the path of movement; and,

a second cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to substantially align the first electrical contacts with the second electrical contacts in a fore-and-aft direction that is substantially parallel to the path of movement.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 6, and wherein the alignment member is configured to engage the first object so as to substantially lock the first and second objects together.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an alignment member which is movably supported on the second object, and wherein a cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to cause substantial alignment of the first electrical contacts with the second electrical contacts in a lateral direction that is substantially normal to the path of movement.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 12, and wherein a third cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to resiliently deflect the second electrical contacts during movement of the alignment member so as to selectively cause the second electrical contacts to contact the first electrical contacts after substantial alignment thereof.

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the third cam surface is further configured to move independently with respect to the first and second cam surfaces.

Claims 17-20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an alignment member which is movably supported on the second object, and wherein a cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to substantially align the first electrical contacts with the second electrical contacts in a fore-and-aft direction that is substantially parallel to the path of movement.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an alignment member which is movably supported on the second object, and wherein a cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to resiliently deflect the second electrical contacts during movement of the alignment member so as to selectively cause the second electrical contacts to contact the first electrical contacts after placement of the first and second objects adjacent to one another.

-- End of Amendments --

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